

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28, to page 3, line 2, with the following paragraph, where ~~striketrough~~ indicates material to be deleted and underlining indicates material to be added:

The nail polish remover as provided herein may further contain a thickening agent at a concentration of between about 0.1% w/v to about 5.0% w/v. The thickening agent may be selected from ~~carbopols~~ CARBOPOL® polymers or methylcelluloses. In one embodiment, the thickening agent is methylcellulose at a concentration of about 0.25% w/v. The nail polish remover as provided herein may be a gel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, lines 21 to 26, with the following paragraph, where ~~striketrough~~ indicates material to be deleted and underlining indicates material to be added:

The method of removing nail polish remover as provided herein can be carried out using nail polish remover further including a thickening agent, where the thickening agent is present at a concentration of between about 0.1% w/v to about 5.0% w/v. The method can be carried out using a nail polish remover wherein the thickening agent a ~~carbopol~~ CARBOPOL® polymer or a methylcellulose. In one embodiment, the method is carried out using a nail polish remover wherein the thickening agent is methylcellulose at a concentration of about 0.25% w/v.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 20, to page 13, line 4, with the following paragraph, where ~~striketrough~~ indicates material to be deleted and underlining indicates material to be added:

Optionally, formulations suitable for use in the compositions and methods of the present invention include a thickening agent. A thickening agent can reduce the fluidity or "runniness" of a formulation, and helps the

nail polish remover remain where it is applied (e.g., localized on the nail), which reduces the amount of nail polish remover needed and avoids spillage or misuse. The thickening agent is present in the composition in an amount sufficient to allow a layer of desired thickness to be applied to a fingernail or toenail. If desired, the thickening agent is present in the composition in an amount sufficient to prevent the nail polish from dripping or running off the nail. A variety of different thickeners may beneficially be used, and a combination of thickeners may be used if desired. Suitable thickening agents include but are not limited to methylcelluloses such as carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, or ~~carbopol~~ CARBOPOL® polymers such as carboxypolymethylene (carbomer, carboxyvinyl polymer or other members of the "~~Carbopol~~CARBOPOL®" group of water-soluble vinyl polymers). In one embodiment, the concentration of thickening agent or agents is from about 0.1% to 5% w/v. In another embodiment, the concentration of thickening agent or agents is from about 0.25% to about 0.5% w/v, still more preferably about 0.25% w/v. In another embodiment, the thickening agent is about 0.25% w/v methylcellulose.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 15, to page 20, line 12, with the following paragraph, where ~~strike through~~ indicates material to be deleted and underlining indicates material to be added:

Using 75% v/v NMP in water as a basic formulation, a series of solutions were prepared with varying amounts of thickening agents. Solutions ranging from 0.25% to 1.0% w/v ~~carbopol~~ CARBOPOL® polymer or methylcellulose in an aqueous solution of 75% v/v NMP were tested for their ability to remove nail polish. The test was conducted by brushing nail polish remover onto test subject's nails and after approximately ten (10) seconds, nail polish was removed using either a tissue or a cotton ball. The preferred thickness of each the solutions was also determined. Results are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Thickening agent	Water	Comments
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Carbopol CARBOPOL®	1.0%	Too thick
Carbopol CARBOPOL®	0.5%	Too thick
Carbopol CARBOPOL®	0.25%	Good
Methylcellulose	1.0%	Too thick
Methylcellulose	0.50%	Good
Methylcellulose	0.25%	Good

All thickened formulations removed nail polish. Occasionally, a second application of nail polish remover was needed to completely remove all traces or spots of polish that were missed on the first removal. Solutions of 1.0% w/v ~~carbopol~~CARBOPOL®, 0.5% w/v ~~carbopol~~CARBOPOL® and 1.0% w/v methylcellulose were considered too thick by the test subjects. Solutions of 0.25% w/v ~~carbopol~~CARBOPOL®, 0.25% w/v methylcellulose, and 0.5% w/v methylcellulose had a favorable thickness. The thickness of the 0.25% w/v methylcellulose solution was slightly preferred over the 0.5% w/v methylcellulose solution.